

- Counties in East Tennessee had higher severe work disability rates than counties in other parts of the State<sup>5</sup>. In 1995-1996, the five counties with the highest rates were Polk, DeKalb, Clay, Jackson, and Hancock. The first four are in Southeast Tennessee; the last is in Northeast Tennessee. The lowest rates were observed for five counties - Moore, Sumner, Wilson, Rutherford, and Williamson, all in the Mid-Cumberland Region of Tennessee. The latter are among the counties with the highest per capita income and educational levels in the State<sup>6</sup>.
- The top five counties with the highest relative increases in severe work disability rates since 1990 were Polk, Jackson, Lauderdale, DeKalb, and Decatur Counties. The five counties with the highest relative decreases in severe work disability rates were Sequatchie, Campbell, Scott, Johnson, and VanBuren.

Source: Borawski, E., H. Jia and G. Wu. 1999. Use of the BRFSS in estimating disability at state and substate level: definition, estimation and validation. Technical Report for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA.

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<sup>5</sup>The sub-state level severe work disability prevalence rates for Tennessee were estimated based on small area analysis techniques to ensure high validity and reliability. This is necessitated by very small sample sizes at the county level. In order to understand such county-level data better, 95% confidence intervals for estimates were also given.

<sup>6</sup>County-level estimates of work disability rates were consistent with 1990 Census data in which questions about work disability were asked. In 86 counties (91%), the relative differences between 1995-1996 BRFSS work disability rates and 1990 Census work disability rates were less than 30%, and in 80 counties (84%), the absolute difference was less than 2%. This suggests relative stability of the results over time and data sources.